

Healthy mmunities

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STRATEGIC PLANNING

Late this spring, our Partnership embarked on our first comprehensive, strategic planning effort, through four "mini-retreats" held at Gettysburg Hospital. These half-day sessions were held on April 3, April 17, May 8, and June 5 and involved 20 to 25 participants per session including representatives from our Board of Directors, task force and committee leaders, and Gettysburg Hospital (See story below). One of the key results of this process was a strong consensus that our name should change from **The Adams County Partnership for Community Health** to **Healthy Adams County**. The rationale for this was that the former name was somewhat cumbersome, and that we really needed to progress to an identity that was shorter, and easier to remember. More importantly, we needed to find a name that would preserve, and hopefully enhance our ability to help people identify more readily with the important work of so many Adams Countians who are engaged in serious efforts daily toward improving health status and quality of life in our local community. We have also clarified and simplified our **Mission** and **Vision Statements**, identified community health and human service needs and priorities, and provided internal direction for the most appropriate use of resources by the Partnership and its affiliated task forces and committees in addressing those needs.

2002 COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Reference is made in the **STRATEGIC PLANNING** segment of this newsletter to the 2002 Community Health Needs Assessment of the Adams County population. **The primary recommendation (goal)** of planning participants was **to improve health status in Adams County by addressing current issues**. The **top five were identified in order of priority**:

1. **Medical Care Access**
2. **Dental Care Access**
3. **Affordable Housing**
4. **Transportation Access**
5. **(tied)- Mental Health Access and Youth Issues (delinquency, teen sexuality, STD's, teen pregnancy, violence/conflict resolution, recreation/activities, education/ training, smoking and smokeless tobacco).**

Other needs identified were: employment/financial problems, childcare, family violence, substance abuse, elderly services/chronic disease, disease demographics (heart, stroke tobacco, sedentary lifestyle, cancer), racism and intolerance, literacy, marketing (health and human services), provision of services to undocumented residents, planning for rapid population growth, family stability/family composition, parenting skills, and motor vehicle accidents/seatbelt use. Related goal statements for addressing updated community health needs were: re-organize workgroups where necessary to address all critical issues identified for Adams County; incorporate the Healthy People 2010 systematic approach to health improvement for the nation; and initiate asset mapping to improve participation and use of local resources.

GIV DAY



Our World Headquarters office at 424 South Washington Street in Gettysburg was one of 29 agencies Adams County to receive several hours of volunteer service work, courtesy of the Gettysburg College Center for Public Service, sponsors of **Gettysburg Is Giving (GIV) Day**. Seven students (mostly first year) worked very hard on August 30, sprucing up the exterior of our building by planting a number of shrubs, and also painting wooden handrails, front porch railings, and our back porch and steps. Accompanying the students (and demonstrating outstanding team spirit and leadership) was Gettysburg College President

Gordon Haaland. This is the second year we have benefited greatly from this expression of community service by the College, and marks the eleventh time for their program.

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR SURVEILLANCE SURVEY (BRFSS)

Healthy Adams County has been approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Health to participate in an expanded version of the **2003 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey**. BRFSS is the largest, continuously conducted telephone health survey in the world, and is used by all states to collect data from adults on self-reported health risk behaviors. This survey will provide an opportunity for further enhancement of current efforts to continuously identify and assess community health needs of the Adams County population, and provide measures for comparison with other counties, the state of Pennsylvania, and the nation. The BRFSS has three components: core questions used by all states; standard modules that each state (and selected counties, including Adams and York) may add; and state-added items. Some of the modules that we have asked be added to our county-specific sampling include: Diabetes, Oral Health, Influenza, Heart Attack and Stroke, Cardiovascular Disease, Tobacco Indicators, Other Tobacco Products, Prostate Cancer Screening, Colorectal Cancer Screening, and Care Giving.

CITIZENS WITH DISABILITIES TASK FORCE

One of our newest workgroups is the Citizens with Disabilities Task Force of Adams County. This task force has already established a goal and objectives. The approved Goal is to improve the health and quality of life of citizens with disabilities who live in Adams County. Objectives are:

1. To maintain a continuing forum to address identified issues faced by citizens with disabilities.
2. To provide relevant continuing education and information to the task force membership. To provide relevant, continuing education and information to the Adams County community.
3. To serve as an advocacy group for project initiatives.
4. To address the goal and objectives of Healthy People 2010 whenever appropriate and feasible.
5. To work toward the establishment of measures to improve health status and quality of life.
6. To serve as an affiliate of Healthy Adams County.

This task force was fortunate, in that it was formed shortly before a promising grant opportunity was made available to Adams County, to apply for participation in **PENNDOT's "Shared-Ride Service for Persons with Disabilities" program**. Shared-ride service, currently available to local senior citizens, would allow citizens with disabilities to schedule "door-to-door" service through ACTA (Adams County Transit Authority). **The task force will act as an advisory group for the application, which has been developed by Rabbit Transit and ACTA.** In addition, the task force is appealing for greater participation by local citizens with disabilities who may wish to join with others who are already involved with this group. Please contact the Healthy Adams County Office (337-4137) if you know of someone who might want to be a part of this effort.

HOUSING TASK FORCE

The Housing Task Force of Adams County (formerly called Homelessness Task Force) has a new name, and a new structure. Members of the Homelessness Task Force (which is chaired by Helena Raccioppa) recently agreed to change their name to more comprehensively reflect the broad range of issues confronting citizens who are coping with trying to prevent or alleviate conditions that may lead to homelessness, or who are trying to transition to an affordable home, a decent job, and a better quality of life for themselves and their families. Affordable housing has been identified as the third highest priority among identified health and human service issues within the Adams County community, through the recently completed Community Health Needs Assessment. The revised approach involves two committees: Homelessness Awareness and Affordable Housing. **Currently, the task force is focusing on promoting greater awareness locally of citizens dealing with homelessness, in recognition of November as National Homelessness Awareness Month.** Representatives from the Adams County Homeless Shelter and the Adams County Housing Authority/Adams County Interfaith Housing Authority are providing critically needed leadership to this community-wide, collaborative approach to addressing very difficult issues.

DENTAL CARE ACCESS

We are pleased to report that a geographic area, consisting of most of Adams County and three adjoining municipalities in western York County has recently been designated as a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area for the low income population, by the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. The (very lengthy) application process was a joint effort by Healthy Adams County and the Hanover Human Services Committee Partnership. As noted in a related report in this newsletter about our Community Health Needs Assessment, access to dental care was ranked as the second highest priority of health and human service needs locally. **The Oral Health Task Force** has begun to investigate strategies to address the critical goal of improving oral health in our communities by increasing access, and will work collaboratively with other partners toward alleviating this growing problem of health care disparity across our region.

PHYSICAL FITNESS TASK FORCE

Another new task force to be formed is the Physical Fitness Task Force of Adams County. **This group has established a Goal to improve health status, fitness, and quality of life of Adams Countians through increased physical activity.** Approved Objectives center on the themes of assessment, education, and advocacy, and members have agreed to work on local approaches to address identified regional health issues relating to sedentary lifestyles. In this effort, **the task force will work with Healthy Adams County in representing Adams County as members of The South Central Regional Activity Network (RAN), a regional collaborative undertaking of healthy community partnerships, state agencies, health care professionals, and volunteers from York, Adams, Franklin, Lancaster, and Dauphin Counties.**
